

Claims:

1. A diagnostic cap comprising a substantially cup-shaped body, an  
5 absorbent plug located within the body, and at least one diagnostic test reagent  
located in or around the absorbent plug.
2. The diagnostic cap according to claim 1, wherein the cap has a length of  
from about 1cm to about 4cm.
- 10 3. The diagnostic cap according to claim 1, wherein the cap has one or  
more engagement elements on an inside surface of a side wall of the cap for  
securing the cap onto a shaft.
- 15 4. The diagnostic cap according to claim 3, wherein said engagement  
elements are selected from the group consisting of: a tapered region for  
forming an interference fit with a complementary tapered region on the shaft, a  
snap-fitting projection for forming a snap-fit with one or more complementary  
projections on the shaft, and a threaded projection for forming a screw fit with  
20 one or more complementary threads on the shaft.
5. The diagnostic cap according to claim 3, wherein a venting aperture is  
provided in a lower region of the cap.
- 25 6. The diagnostic cap according to claim 5, wherein the cap is at least  
partially transparent.
7. The diagnostic cap according to claim 3, wherein the at least one  
diagnostic test reagent is provided in or on an annular diagnostic strip  
30 extending radially around the inside of the cap.
8. The diagnostic cap according to claim 3, wherein at least one diagnostic  
test reagent is provided in or on a diagnostic sheet extending transversely  
across the inside of the cap.

9. The diagnostic cap according to claim 8, wherein the absorbent plug has an uncompressed volume of from about 10 to about 1000mm<sup>3</sup>, preferably from about 50 to about 300 mm<sup>3</sup>.

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10. The diagnostic cap according to claim 8, wherein the cap bears radially and/or axially spaced indicia corresponding to different regions or layers of diagnostic material inside the cap.

10 11. The diagnostic cap according to claim 8, wherein the cap is provided with a filter for separating solid debris from an analyte solution to be passed to the diagnostic test reagent.

12 12. The diagnostic cap according to claim 11, wherein the cap is provided with a fill indicator to indicate when the diagnostic test reagent has been wetted by an analyte solution.

13 13. The diagnostic cap according to claim 12, wherein the diagnostic test reagent comprises a solid support material having a substrate moiety covalently linked thereto that is cleavable by an analyte enzyme.

14 14. The diagnostic cap according to claim 12, wherein the diagnostic test reagent comprises a solid support material having an immunological binding partner for an analyte moiety covalently linked thereto.

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15. The diagnostic cap according to claim 12, wherein the cap contains a plurality of diagnostic test reagents for detecting a plurality of different analytes.

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